

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Initially, the courtesies extended by Examiner Chang during the personal interview conducted on March 25, 2004 are greatly appreciated.

During the interview, the rejections of record were discussed as was the Request for Reconsideration filed February 10, 2004. Specifically, Applicants' undersigned representative explained why, for the reasons as expressed in the Request for Reconsideration, one having ordinary skill in the art would not have found it obvious to combine Baker et al. and Asai et al to arrive at the claimed invention.

Examiner Chang then further explained his position as to why the rejections of record would not be withdrawn. Basically, the position taken by Examiner Chang is that it would have been obvious to use a component supply table on casters, as taught by Asai et al., instead of structure supported by the left and right side sections 17 and 19 of Baker et al, which structure supports components.

Applicants' undersigned representative then proposed to amend claims 15, 18 and 23 by reciting that the first and second mounting head sections have a plurality of nozzles and are rotatable. Examiner Chang expressed that it appears as though these amendments would not place the application in condition for allowance, because in Baker '528, even though the turrets 65 and 67 only move in an X direction, the table 51 is adjustable in a Y direction at a component mounting position such that there is relative motion between the turrets and a substrate, on the table, in X and Y directions, which relative motion is the same that would be achieved by having the rotatable mounting head sections of the instant invention be movable in X and Y directions. Accordingly, the basic position taken by Examiner Chang is that it would have been obvious to provide the relative motion in X and Y directions, as taught by Baker '528, by the moving the turrets 65 and 67 in each of X and Y directions as opposed to moving the turrets in an X direction and table 51 in a Y direction.

Examiner Chang did express, however, that a possible amendment to define around the rejections of record would be to claim at least two component supply tables, along with corresponding mounting head sections, on each side of the board transfer path. Accordingly, by the

current Amendment, claims 15, 18 and 23 have been amended to adopt Examiner Chang's suggestion.

In this regard, claim 15 now recites

A component mounting assembly including component mounting apparatuses positioned along a board transfer path, each of said component mounting apparatuses comprising:
first and second component supply tables...on both sides of the board transfer path...
a first mounting head section...and
a second mounting head section...
wherein all of the first component supply tables...are positioned on one side of the board transfer path, and all of the second component supply tables...are positioned on the other side of the board transfer path.

Similarly, claims 18 and 23 now each recite

A component mounting assembly including component mounting apparatuses positioned along a board transfer path, each of said component mounting apparatuses comprising:
a first component supply table...on a first side of the board transfer path...
a second component supply table...on a second side of the board transfer path...
a first mounting head section...and
a second mounting head section,
wherein all of the first component supply tables...are positioned on one side of the board transfer path, and all of the second component supply tables...are positioned on the other side of the board transfer path.

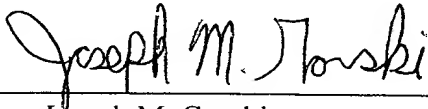
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 15, 18 and 23 now require at least two component supply tables positioned on each side of the board transfer path. Such an arrangement is not taught or suggested by any of the references relied upon, and accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 15, 18 and 23 are allowable over the references currently of record, either taken alone or in combination. Thus, claims 15-25 are allowable.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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